



## United States Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

P. O. Box 46667

Denver, Colorado 80201-6667

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 28, 2008

UT-0079

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining  
Coal Regulatory Program  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RE: West Ridge Resources, Inc. "West Ridge" Mine - Application for a Permit Revision,  
Bear Canyon GVH, Task ID No. 3077

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining's (UT-DOGM) October 28, 2008, request for a decision, under 30 CFR 944.30, whether the above subject permit revision constitutes a mining plan modification.

Mining plan approvals by the Secretary of the Interior are required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.* before coal mining can occur on Federal lands. This letter serves to document OSM's determination whether or not a mining plan approval from the Secretary is required for the above permitting action.

OSM's review of the Application for a Permit Revision, Bear Canyon GVH, has determined that it requests the approval of, and modifies the text of, the approved Permit Application Package (PAP) to discuss the installation, operation, and reclamation of an emergency gob vent hole, on lands under the management of the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) at the West Ridge mine, Utah State permit C/007/0041.

Based on a review of the activities associated with the permit revision, OSM has determined that the proposal does not meet the requirements of 30 CFR PART 740 and PART 746. Therefore, the proposed permit revision does not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

OSM's decision was based solely upon the Federal regulations under 30 CFR PART 746 and not the technical aspects of the revision application itself. Consequently, OSM's decision does not relieve UT-DOGM from coordinating the review and approval of the Application for a Permit Revision, Bear Canyon GVH, with other Federal agencies for compliance with other Federal regulations.

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS &amp; MINING

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OSM also electronically transmitted the October 28, 2008, request to the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service for their review and comment.

In an electronic submittal dated October 31, 2008, the USDA Forest Service stated the proposed permit revision did not constitute a mining plan modification requiring Secretarial approval.

The Bureau of Land Management did not provide any comments in the thirty day time frame established by the Federal regulations under 30 CFR 944.30, Article VI. D.

Please notify the applicant of our decision on this matter.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or approval, please contact Carl R. Johnston, Utah Federal Lands coordinator, at (303) 293-5038.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Kirby', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Foster E. Kirby  
Acting Manager, Northwest Branch

cc: BLM - Utah State Office  
BLM - Price Field Office  
USFS - Manti-La Sal NF  
Denver Field Division